

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1524 - HB 1604**

March 30, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Changes the standard for denying workers' compensation benefits in cases involving alcohol and drug use from such use being a proximate cause of an injury or death to such use being a contributing cause of such injury or death.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease Local Expenditures – Less than \$100,000**

Assumptions:

- Approximately one workers' compensation claim per year could potentially be impacted by this bill. Such cases are generally resolved with the claimant being denied workers' compensation benefits under current law. The change provided by this bill would strengthen the ability of the state to win these cases. Since the state generally wins compensation claims under such circumstances it cannot be assumed that there would be a claim each year whose outcome would be determined by the changes provided by this bill. As a result, there would be no impact to state expenditures by the Risk Management Fund.
- A decrease in local government expenditures estimated to be less than \$100,000. Such decrease is due to local governments that have implemented the drug-free workplace paying at least one less claim per year for employees injured on the job that have a positive drug or alcohol test.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/cce